As regards grazing blocks, that again is a question upon which Government have expressed themselves rather unfavourably. I have taken up the question and shall pass orders soon.

The industrial survey, I may tell you, will have to wait.

With regard to the roads you mentioned in your point No. 14, some of them are already under construction. The others which have not been taken up for construction and for which estimates have not been sanctioned will be referred to the Road Board. I shall call for a report after investigation from the Chief Engineer on your point No. 15 regarding irrigation channels. With regard to bridges, all except those which are already under construction will be referred to the Road Board.

Regarding the construction of a canal on the western side of Edamala for draining the brackish water, I shall ask the Chief Engineer to investigate the matter.

133. Important needs of the Devicolam taluk.

MR. H. O. L. MARIKAR (*Devicolam taluk*) spoke on the following needs of the Devicolam taluk:—

The rate of assessment and water cess charged on lands in the Anjanad tract should be substantially reduced. The produce of the lands was hardly sufficient for the subsistence of the villagers of Anjanad. Should it be too soon to think of a re-settlement, something might be done to alleviate the lot of the villagers.

An extent of at least 25 acres of land in the Devicolam Cutcherry *poramboke* should be set apart for registry in the names of the non-officials who resorted to Devicolam on business.

There were large areas of waste land available for registry on the new Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road passing through the taluks of Devicolam, Todupuzha and Muvattupuzha. In the High Ranges, every leniency had been shown to British Indian ryots in the matter of assignment of cardamom area. The practice should be stopped and all available land should be conserved and assigned to *bona fide* Travancoreans who were prepared to open big plantations. A preliminary survey should be conducted to ascertain what area was available for registry and a comprehensive scheme should be formulated by a committee of officials and non-officials. The Dewan Peishkar, Kottayam, the Devicolam Commissioner and the Conservator of Forests should be on the committee.

The Devicolam-Peermade road was completed up to the Periakanal Estate. The portion within the Panniar Estate was made cartable by the estate-owners. The portion from Sasthavadi to Gudampana Estate was also improved by the estate-owners. The portion to be attended to by Government was comparatively short. The matter should be investigated by the Public Works Department and the road from Periakanal to Kallar should be made fit for cart traffic as expeditiously as possible.

The need for widening and improving the northern outlet road was time and again pressed upon the attention of Government. But nothing substantial was done. Greater attention should be paid to that road in the shape of more liberal grants.

There was a cart road from Devicolam to the Chinnakanal, junction. From that junction to Bodimettu, which was an important station, there was only a bridle path. As the bridge on that path, *i. e.*, the Panniar bridge, was rickety, it was not safe to take cars and carriages beyond it. The bridge should be made fit for wheeled traffic, including motor traffic.

A cart road to Bison Valley was a *sine qua non*. A road connecting the Periakanal road with Pallivasal *via* Bison Valley would be of immense use to cardamom ryots.

The Cardamom ryots were alarmed at the news that Government were considering the question of levying an export duty on cardamoms. Cardamom estates were devastated by plant pest and some of the ryots who were unable to pay land tax had surrendered the lands to Government. The proposal should be dropped.

More lands should be thrown open for registry for the purpose of cardamom cultivation.

The Cardamom Association should be represented in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council.

A second class travellers' bungalow should be opened at Marayur. The *satram* opened there should be set apart for the use of the public.

In conclusion, the member invited the Dewan on behalf of the planters, to visit the Devicolam taluk.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Marikar, I thank you for the invitation you extended to me on behalf of the planters to visit your taluk and I shall take the earliest opportunity I can get to do so.

Your first point related to the reduction of the rate of assessment on wet lands in Anjanad. As you yourself anticipated, that is a question which could be taken up only at the time of the re-settlement. Then your suggestions will be borne in mind.

With regard to your second point, I understand that there is already some idea of extending the *poramboke* lands available for house sites near the Cutcherry. I shall call for a report from the Land Revenue Commissioner on that point.

As regards the registry of lands on the sides of the Pallivasal-Neriamangalam road, as the Dewan said at the last session of the Assembly, the lands will be first surveyed and plotted and after the road is completed—

MEMBER: Registry may take place after the whole road is completed.

DEWAN: That is what I am saying. The lands will be surveyed and plotted and the registry will be effected after the completion of the road.

As regards the Devicolam-Peermade road, it can be considered only after the completion of the Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road.

The question of the export duty on cardamom is still under the consideration of the Government and your demand will also be considered.

The construction of a travellers' bungalow at Marayur is under consideration.

Points 7 to 9 in your representation relate to new roads and they have to be considered by the Road Board.

The question of throwing open more lands for registry for cardamom cultivation is under the consideration of Government.

134. Needs of the Peermade taluk.

KHAN SAHIB N. K. P. P. ROWTHER (*Peermade taluk*) spoke on the following needs of the Peermade taluk:—

As the owners of cardamom lands could not live within their estates, they erected houses on the adjoining hills. Until some years ago, it was customary for the cardamom ryots to occupy as much land as they liked on payment of a ground value of Rs. 25 per acre. A recent order of Government fixed the ground value at Rs. 100 per acre. The order should be cancelled and lands should be registered to cardamom ryots for building stores and dwelling houses at a *taravila* of Rs. 25 per acre.

The coolies of the cardamom estates lived in huts made of bamboos and grass. The subordinates of the Forest Department often harassed the coolies and cardamom ryots by calling upon them to produce passes for the bamboos cut and removed for the purpose of constructing huts. Permission should therefore be accorded to the ryots to cut reeds, bamboos, grass and other materials from Government lands for the purpose of erecting temporary sheds and huts.

The cardamom estates were in danger of extinction on account of the prevalence of cardamom pest. A model cardamom farm should be opened in Vandanmettu with a view to educating the ryots in the methods of rearing plants and destroying pests. The Director of Agriculture should be asked to visit the disease-stricken areas.

The shady trees standing in the estates hampered the growth of cardamom plants. For the felling of trees which had a girth of more than four feet, permission had to be obtained in advance from the Forest officers through the Revenue authorities. It caused unnecessary delay. As the cardamom areas were under the direct control of the Revenue authorities, the power of granting or withholding permission to fell down trees should also rest with them.

The cardamom industry was carried on without any financial aid from Government. The cardamom ryots who really wanted to improve their lands should be encouraged by means of agricultural loans.